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## 9/11: Ten Years Later

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Panel: 9/11: 10 Years Later

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## Kgebetli MOELE

### 9/11: Ten Years Later

In any playground rules are needed and one has to adhere to these rules. Any system in this earth is controlled by certain rules that define and govern it. We all adhere to the rule of gravity. The sun, the moon, the stars and all the planets all adhere to the rules of the universe. It is a system universally in place. What if one morning the sun just decided not to rise? Darkness would rule. The earth needs a kind of a system for all humankind to adhere to.

The playground needs a shepherd. A shepherd more like David, who could tear up a lion and a bear, then be happy when all the sheep were safe in the barn. It needs a policeman, so to say. Some countries are incapable of being this policeman. For example, there is no way that Zimbabwe can police the world. This playground has more than three hundred plus toddlers – toddlers of very different colours and cultures, different in height and weight, different in wisdom, different in needs and wants – playing the game of life in order to move past their personal interests and relate to each other.

Zimbabwe can't lay an authoritative system in place to create peaceful lasting relations among the three hundred toddlers. Zimbabwe would not care that Asia was hit by a tsunami; he would definitely die laughing rolling on the ground. He would smile knowing that Mozambique was drowning in torrential floods, and Zimbabwe would definitely add petrol to the Korean fire to see South and North burning up. Zimbabwe would let famine take control of Africa and let the Africans fight to their death, so as to inherit the land after they are all gone. All because Zimbabwe doesn't care about the playground.

He pretends to care about his country, but he doesn't really; neither does he care about this playground. The United States of America cares. He cares about the lack of education in Africa; hasn't he spent billions of dollars trying to improve the lives of Africans? The United States still injects billions of dollars into Africa so that Africa, as well, can play in this playground with the other toddlers, safely, peacefully and happily, on a full stomach. Every toddler in this playground lives and breathes because of the United States. Britain would be speaking German, if it were not for the United States.

In fact, if it were not for the authoritative systems that the United States put on the playground, all of Europe would be speaking German as their first language. But because the United States cares—unlike Zimbabwe—France, Britain, Russia and many other countries are all happy, peaceful and in perfect relation in this playground. Come to think of it; if it was not because of the toddler called the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and maybe India would be dead drunk with Russian vodka, but because the United States was there and played an authoritative part, the Asians don't like or drink vodka.

The interrelations of this playground are defined, and we have peace, except for a couple of wars, famines and natural disasters here and there, and internal squabbles among the toddlers, but peace prevails and this is thanks to the United States of America. No civilization has had the impact that the toddler called the United States has had on the world, and there have been many civilizations. The Egyptian Pharaohs spent their time building monuments that have defiantly

outlived them even in death. The Romans enjoyed conquering the world, but eventually the world defeated them. All fallen civilizations crumble by themselves; mostly they rise by their will and fall unwillingly.

On the morning of December 7, 1941, an attack was made on United States soil. On the morning of September 11, 2001, an attack was made on United States soil. These two attacks on the United States led the playground to better understand the United States. The first one marked the beginning of the end of the world war. Simply because Japan was directly involved and being another toddler on this playground, he was quick to be punished. Japan took his punishment and surrendered. Then the toddler United States took the stage in 1961 with a vision to rule the playground and sugar-coated it by naming this vision **USAID**. No civilization had ever thought about doing that, and deep inside this capitalist toddler is a socialist at heart. Humane, a mother, a father—a parent of the playground.

The second attack was not by a toddler but by a man, capable and highly trained by the United States itself. He was stateless, representing his personal interests, trying to upset the balance within the playground. And how does a man fight with a country? But that is not the real question here; the question is: how does a country fight with a man? There are things that we ignore when we look at the 9/11 attacks and the consequences thereof. The question should be why would a man like Bin Laden hate the United States of America so much? The United States of America is in all a Great Country: Mighty. Our vision of the world is the United States of America's vision, and in the process of building this United States' version of the world, the United States has trampled on the visions of other countries. 9/11 has taught us that there are many countries that are dissatisfied with the United States of America's international policies but are unable to voice their concerns as such until one man takes a stand. The United States labels him a terrorist and we all view him as such, a terrorist. That is what he becomes because he has no idea of the intricate balance required to keep that playground at peace.

American power was loudly expressed in August 6, 1945 with the bombing of Hiroshima, and ever since every American president has to make the playground remember that he has power that no civilization before ever dreamed about. George W. Bush exercised this power with Saddam Hussein, and Barack Obama is doing the same in Libya. And out of the forty-four American presidents, only eighteen never signed an executive command for going to war on the playground. It is this American power that is keeping peace within the playground. There was no other country that cared enough to stop the Somali pirates.

In the end, the 9/11 attacks just reminded us that the United States of America is the world's policeman and like all policemen in the world over, is caring, devoted and loyal to policing the world. This is a job that at times requires a brutal hand to keep and maintain the peace on the playgrounds of life. Most importantly, though, we need to be reminded that we are safe because the United States of America cares about our safety.